

CONNECTICUT WEEKLY DIADROMOUS FISH REPORT
 Report Date: March 29, 2016



This is a report generated by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection/ Inland Fisheries Division- Diadromous Program. For more information, contact Steve Gephard, 860/447-4316. For more information about fish runs on the Connecticut River visit the USFWS website at www.fws.gov/r5src. For more information about Atlantic salmon, visit the Connecticut River Salmon Association at www.ctriversalmon.org.

CONNECTICUT RIVER LOCATIONS

FISHWAY (RIVER)	ATLANTIC SALMON	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Rainbow* (Farmington)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leesville (Salmon)	0	-	-	0	-	-	0***	0	0
StanChem* (Mattabesset)	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Moulson Pond* (Eightmile)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Mary Steube* (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rogers Lake+ (Mill Brook)	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
WestSpringfield (Westfield- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holyoke (Connecticut- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Manhan River* (Manhan- MA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turners Falls* (Connecticut- MA)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	-
Vernon* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Bellows Falls* (Connecticut- VT)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0
Wilder* (Connecticut- VT)	0	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	0
Other (all sites)	0								
TOTALS=	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(last year's totals)	22	416,355	237	11,822	93	21	24,573	9	20,305

Fishways listed in gray font above are not yet opened for the season. In some cases, the fishways will be opened soon. In the case of the fishways on the Connecticut River, some fishways are not opened until significant numbers of fish pass through the fishway immediately downstream of them. If that never happens, the fishway may not be opened during the season.

*There is a video camera that records passage. There is a considerable lag between the date a tape is recorded and when staff is able to count fish from the tape, so these numbers will not represent up-to-date counts until after the end of spring season.*** Population estimates based on end-of-the-season nest surveys.- +There is an electronic fish counter at this fishway.

NOTE: All fish that pass through the Turners Falls, Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder fishways had to first go through the Holyoke Fishlift where they were counted. Therefore those fish are not included in the totals at the bottom.

COMMENTS:

For the Connecticut River, it is a repeat of last week. The river is still cold and no fish showing up. We have heard of reports of alewives in the Lieutenant River twice but we have yet to see them. Many of our reports of alewives have been cases of mistaken identity—those pesky menhaden from last year! So we're waiting to confirm these sightings. On the other hand, we received a photo from Pine Brook (Salmon River) of scales on the rocks that look like alewife scales (see below), so maybe they're in. I have not had a chance to snorkel yet, so I cannot verify. We have newly minted volunteers on the river thanks to the Connecticut River Watershed Council's Citizen Science project and many are already out monitoring streams. We have opened the Moulson Pond on the Eightmile River in Lyme. We documented a few white suckers going through before the camera stopped working. We hope to have that problem ironed out soon. The ospreys are back. The story on last fall's spawning of salmon in the Farmington River will not die. The latest story comes from NPR: WSHU in Fairfield: <http://www.tinyurl.com/zecyf6b>. The story last month on Al Jezerra America seemed to garner the most attention.

While the news is slow, I'll continue my reports on the dam removals done during the summer of 2015. This week's featured project is the **Hyde Pond Dam Removal Project**. The dam was the first barrier on the Whitford Brook, which has always been a prime river herring and sea-run trout stream in Groton and North Stonington. Years ago, the Town of Groton built a fishway at the dam as part of a subdivision/conservation set-aside. Later, we improved the fishway with an oil spill settlement grant. The fishway seemed to work fine but the stone dam, which was privately-owned, was crumbling and very leaky. During the summer, all flow passed through the dam and we feared that the dam would fail just enough to stop impounding water (so the fishway would not work) but still be enough of a structure to block fish. Save the Sound received Hurricane Sandy Resiliency funds to remove the dam, with landowner permission. Gwen MacDonald was STS's project manager and they hired Princeton Hydro to design the project and RiverLogic Solutions as the contractor. The project took a long time to secure permits but the removal itself just took days. The steep pass fishway was disassembled and put into storage so it can be re-used at a future fishway project. Since this dam had a fishway, the removal may not technically open up "new" river miles to migratory fishes. But an open river passes more fish than a river with a dam and fishway plus this project secures the future for this river, knowing that the dam won't fail and block fish and degrade habitat. With this project completed, we now hope to focus on upstream dams to get fish even farther upstream.



Upper left: Scales thought to have come from alewives are found on rocks along Pine Brook (photo by Ehren Meisinger, one of the CRWC volunteer river herring monitors). **Lower left:** Pulling the boards at Hyde Pond Dam. Princeton Hydro Engineer Laura Wildman is in center near backhoe and the two people to the right of the photo are John Champion (with back to camera) and Gwen MacDonald, both with Save the Sound, the project sponsor. Others are Inland Fisheries Division staff. We were on hand to rescue any fish and mussels stranded by the de-watering of the pond. The dam is behind the backhoe. **Above:** Free-flowing Whitford Brook. The far side is the remnants of the earthen dam where the fishway used to be. The stone spillway used to be right in line with that where the stream now flows. The green surface is soil that was hydroseeded to stabilize the soil..

OTHER LOCATIONS WITHIN CONNECTICUT

FISHWAY (RIVER)	AMER. SHAD	ALEWIFE	BLUEBACK HERRING	GIZZARD SHAD	STRIPED BASS	SEA LAMPREY	SEA-RUN TROUT	AMER. EEL
Greeneville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taftville* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Occum* (Shetucket R., Norwich)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tunnel* (Quinebaug R., Preston)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinneytown* (Naugatuck R., Seymour)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hallville Pond* (Poquetanuck Br. Preston)	-	0	0	0	-	0	0	
Trading Cove Brook** - (Trading Cove Brook, Montville)		0	0	0	-	-	0	-
Jordan Brook** - (Jordan Brook, Waterford)		0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Latimers Brook** - (Latimers Br., E.Lyme)	-	121	0	-	-	-	0	-
Brides Brook** (Brides Brook, E.Lyme)		20,556						
Clarks Pond - (Indian River, Milford)	-	0		-		-	-	
Branford Supply Pond Dam** 0 (Queach Br., Branford)		0	-	-	-	-		
Lower Guilford Lake** (East River, Guilford)		0	-			- 0	0	
Haakonsen Fishway* 0 (Quinnipiac R., Wallingford)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bunnells Pond* - (Peqonnock R., Bridgeport)	-	0	0	0	0			
Wood Dam** (Saugatuck R., Westport)		0	0			Fish counter not operational		
Mianus River Pond* ** (Mianus R., Greenwich)		849	0	0	0	0	0	-

**Fish passage is video-recorded and counts are made off of tapes several days later so these data are always lagged a little behind. This report covers passage up to the following dates for these fishways:*

Greeneville= n.a. Taftville= n.a. Occum= n.a. Tunnel= n.a. Kinneytown= n.a. Haakonsen= n.a. Hallville= n.a.

******These locations have an electronic fish counter and are used as index sites for river herring runs. The counter is checked daily Monday-Friday. Monday counts typically include all weekend passage. These counts are usually up-to-date but some may lag behind a day or two, occasionally.

+This location has a fish trap and fish are enumerated prior to release.

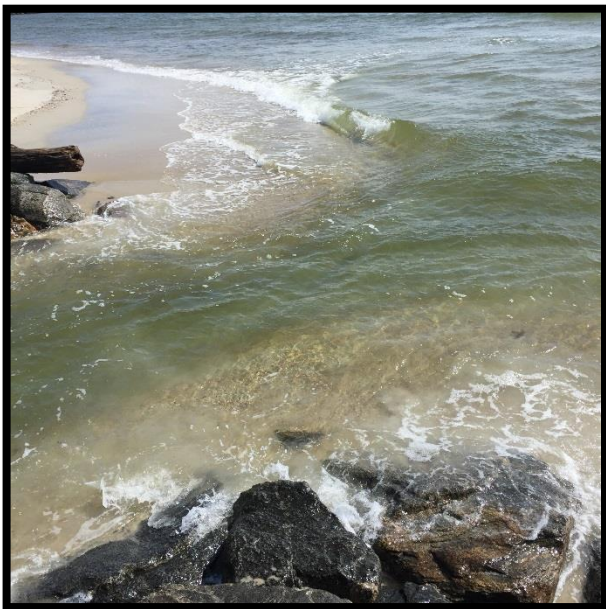
Counts in parentheses indicate numbers seen in a run that is now over and no further fish were counted during the past week. Typically used for alewife runs later in June.

COMMENTS:

The alewife run continues at the sites where we have reported them in previous weeks but we haven't added any new streams in the past week. Brides tallied 10,000 fish this week and at Mianus Pond Fishway, another 500+, but just a few trickled in at Latimer Brook. We also have to walk back our count at Greenville from last week. We reported hundreds of alewives based on reports from the utility company observing the lifts but when we downloaded and viewed the video, we determined that most of the fish they were seeing were actually spottail shiners. Spottails are a very common minnow species in the large rivers of the state but I don't think we've ever seen them lifted at Greenville before. They also lifted a lot of sunfish.

We've been opening more fishways. Hallville in Preston was opened yesterday but an electrical problem kept us from stating the video system. It sounds like the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District might have fixed that problem and hopefully the video will be up and running soon. We also opened the Jordan Brook Fishway in Waterford yesterday. That is a new one on the table above. Even though the fishway has been operational for years, this year our program worked with the Town of Waterford to install an electronic fish counter at the Town-owned fishway. We have no counts to report this week but hopefully soon. We also opened the Branford Water Supply Ponds Fishway and installed that counter and installed the counter at the fishway at Lower Guilford Lake on the East River in Guilford. The pond won't be raised to its spring level to allow operation of the fishway until the end of the week, but everything's ready when it comes back up.

Captain Ian Devlin is back out and about monitoring streams in SW CT. He is also seeing last year's menhaden down there along with schools of silversides. He did see some alewives in the Mianus River below the fishway but hopefully they are now part of the count submitted to us by the Town. Veteran volunteer monitor Ray Baldwin is back on the job in Milford at the Clarks Pond Fishway and reports the start of the glass eel run there (see photo below). Also, local resident Aly Zwicharowski caught and released a nice brown trout below the fishway—fishing season is open in tidewater areas.



Last summer the tides had pushed so much sand into the new culvert at Rocky Neck where Bride Brook passes through the beach, some of the the young-of-year alewives had trouble reaching the sea. This spring, however, the flows have washed the sand aside and the channel looks pretty good for getting alewives upstream to spawn (photo by Gary Wilson).



Ray Baldwin holds a dead glass eel that he found at the Clark Pond Fishway (photo by Ray Baldwin).